

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated July 2, 2007.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-25 remained pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-14 have been allowed. Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Takahashi. Claims 17 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Shen. Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Shen in further view of Gecht.

Responsive to a prior Office action (dated March 9, 2007), applicants submitted a Declaration Under § 1.131, demonstrating conception and diligence in reducing the invention to practice from a time prior to the effective date of Takahashi. Applicants submit that such Declaration Under § 1.131 is effective to eliminate Takahashi as prior art. Nevertheless, in the present Office action, the Examiner denied submission of the Declaration Under § 1.131, and made the rejections (of claims 15-25) based on Takahashi final.

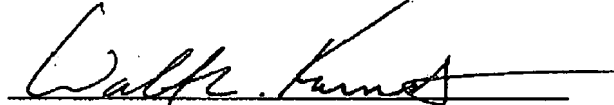
Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claims 15-25, and with the denial of submission of applicants Declaration Under § 1.131. Nevertheless, in view of the allowance of claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-14, and the finality of the rejection of claims 15-25, applicants have cancelled claims 15-25 without prejudice to further prosecution in this application or another pending or subsequent application.

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Applicants thus submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the previous allowance of claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-14 and the present cancellation of claims 15-25 without prejudice. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner J. Pokrzywa, Group Art Unit 2625, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on September 4, 2007.



Christie A. Doolittle

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